

# The Granite News

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Hughes Creek  
Caveat  
Highlands  
Ruffy  
Terip Terip

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## WELCOME

Welcome to our first edition of The Granite News. Thank you to Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) Landcare for assisting us in the production of this weekly newsletter. The Granite News replaces The Highlander and has an expanded distribution to include all the HCCC area. Readers, please send any information, suggestions, and comments to us to help make this a really useful and interesting addition to your week. Please email [miranda@activ8.net.au](mailto:miranda@activ8.net.au) or ring on 57969261. In future editions, there will be a larger Classified and Community Notices section. Highlands Primary School will be back with all their news and photos too.

## CHRISTMAS EVE IN CAVEAT

A Christmas Eve Service was held at the Caveat Church. Around 55 people including children attended the first service in the Caveat Church for 15 years. It took the form of a reading of the Christmas story with commentary and carols. The service was received with enthusiasm and may well be the beginning of services at particular times such as Easter and Christmas. We would be interested in other comments on this. Our thanks go to Peg Lade and the McKay family who helped clean the church and to Jan Sporry who gave that extra touch of flowers and refreshments.  
By Stuart Reid

*There are only four words in the English language that end in dous. What are they?  
Answer next week.*

## HiArts Art Exhibition and Family Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March.

Let's start talking about it now! The post cards are out and so are car stickers for those interested. Artists wanting to place exhibits should be registering with Jill Maclean now (5796 9331).

This year will be bigger and better. As well as art for viewing and sale, there will be demonstrations on pottery, spinning, felting and Japanese doll making. There will be plants and herbs for sale, plus home wares and local produce. As in the past there will be activities for the children, music and poetry.

Yes, of course there will be excellent food, wine and beer. Saturday night BBQ will be on as usual with a dance band. A great weekend, tell your friends, get them up to stay the weekend.

Don't forget to visit our website > [www.hiarts.org](http://www.hiarts.org) or call Stuart 5796 9358

*If you don't empty your letterbox regularly, send in your email address and we will email the newsletter to you. Apologies to people who receive both a hard copy and an email. We know it is wasteful but it is too complicated to ask the kind posties to put it in some mailboxes and not others. They are already delivering it out of the goodness of their hearts and we don't want to push our luck!*



## BATS AND PADDOCK TREES

Large old trees, scattered across paddocks in rural landscapes of southeastern Australia, are widely appreciated for their aesthetic appeal. Increasingly, they are also being recognized for their economic benefit, such as providing shade and shelter to livestock, lowering risk of dryland salinity and reducing erosion. Fewer people are aware of their value in conserving biodiversity.

One group of animals that commonly use paddock trees are insect-eating bats. These valuable native mammals often go unnoticed because they are small, largely silent (to our ears at least), hidden during the day in roosts, and only feed at night when they may be mistaken for a moth or late-flying bird.

Bats eat a wide range of invertebrates, predominantly moths, beetles and bugs, with some species also eating spiders, mosquitoes, grasshoppers and crickets. Individuals can eat up to half their body weight in a night. Some species have recorded catching up to 600 mosquitoes in an hour. The role they play in reducing insects is likely to be particularly important around sparsely scattered trees, because there are so few insect-eating birds in these situations.

### What can you do to help?

Read next week's edition and find out!

## Rachel Kyle's exercise class is on!

Enough people have expressed an interest in attending an exercise class to tempt Rachel up the hill from Yea. Classes begin on Tuesday 30th January at 6pm sharp. Come a little earlier if you would like to talk to Rachel, a qualified physiotherapist, about any concerns you may have. You will need a ball and yoga mat. Ring Rachel on 0422255256 if you need one of these. It is important to have the correct sized ball for your height and all the exercises use the ball. See you at the Highlands Hall Rick and Julia!

## Classifieds & Community Notices

### RABBITS RABBITS RABBITS

Landcare / Dept of Primary Industry  
2007 I080 Oats Group Campaign.  
Pick Up Day at Highlands & Ruffy  
Friday 19th January ( afternoon )  
20 kg drums available  
Smaller amounts by special request .  
Ring Janet with your orders:  
57 904 268 before 17th January.  
\*Remember oats baits will keep until  
you are ready to use them unlike the  
carrots which had to be used immedi-  
ately.  
This will be your only chance to pick  
up baits locally.  
If you miss out you will have to order  
privately via the 1080 hotline:  
1300 10 1080

### Hughes Creek Waterwatch team

Next round 10am 17th January -  
New samples bottles in your mail-  
boxes soon. Janet Hagen

### Lost in Highlands

A bunch of keys with a brown leather  
and silver key ring, includes a Toyota  
ute key. Please contact Highlands  
Primary School if you find them, thank  
you.

### RAINFALL

The Met Bureau has an official rain  
gauge at "Glentannar", Lade Road,  
Highlands, where rainfall records have  
been kept since 1905. Last year was  
the driest since 1914-15 when 16  
inches fell. 2006 could just manage  
443.6 mms (17.4 inches). A heavy  
thunderstorm on New Year's Eve  
yielded 21 mms, whereas only 1km  
west received 35mm. This reading has  
to be officially recorded at 9am on  
New Year's Day . At the Ruffy Store,  
1mm and one spider were tipped out  
of the gauge on 1st Jan.

Do any other Met Bureau rain gauges  
exist in the Ruffy- Terip area ?

### Ruffy CFA NEWS

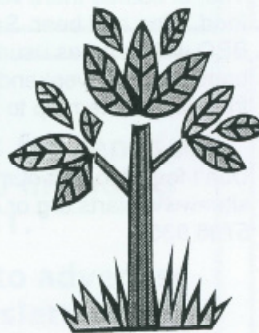
Who would have thought after watch-  
ing the excellent "Embers" play at  
the Ruffy Hall in October we would  
have a similar situation in 2006-7!  
Many thanks to the members who  
volunteered for duty in the 2205  
team in the North East Fires. We  
worked in the very active zones in  
the King and Ovens Valleys. We are  
also pleased to welcome our 22  
new members, and training will  
also commence very shortly! Every-  
thing, including our new No 2  
truck has been delayed because of  
the current fires - more updates  
as soon as we know what is going  
on. Justus Hagen secretary

### WATER SAVING TIPS

Don't leave the tap running while  
you brush your teeth.

Don't run wa-  
ter down the  
sink while you  
are waiting for  
it to get hot.  
Collect it in a  
recycled plas-  
tic bottle to  
use on your  
plants.

Play the radio  
while you have  
a shower and  
only stay in for one or two songs,  
anywhere from around two and a  
half to six minutes maximum.



### Weed Mapping of Council Land within Murrindindi Shire

Murrindindi Shire has been successful  
in obtaining a grant to assess the  
presence of declared noxious weeds  
and prioritise management techniques  
regarding those weeds on council  
land. An Environment Project Officer  
has been appointed with funds from  
the DPI "Tackling Weeds on Private  
Land" project.

The position specifically encompasses  
weed mapping with a focus on council  
road reserves, rail reserve land man-  
aged by council and other council  
owned and managed land.

Every land owner has a responsibility  
to ensure all noxious weeds are pre-  
vented from spreading; for example,  
as contaminants in hay, grain, soil or  
sand or on vehicles. The project aims  
to achieve a more integrated approach  
to weed management. Native vegeta-  
tion will also be assessed and classi-  
fied.

Management techniques that con-  
sider the conservation value of sites  
identified will assist in a more strategic  
assessment of priority areas.

Your support and input is encouraged.

If you would like more information  
regarding this project please call Sue  
McNair on 0428 333 749 or fax  
57722291

### BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

A little known and unusual native orchid  
is flowering in swamps and damp areas  
of our granite country at the moment.  
This is AUSTRAL LADIES' TRESSES-  
*Spiranthes sinensis*. From 10 to 60 tiny  
pink and white flowers are arranged in a  
spiral on the main stem, from 20 to 60  
cms tall. It is usually found in low num-  
bers but some extensive colonies have  
existed in Highlands. Many colonies

have been lost to wetlands drainage  
and stock grazing.

Keep a good look out in the next few  
weeks. By Peg Lade



## Community What's On Calendar - January

Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Next HCCC Landcare meeting Terip Terip Rec Ground 8pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	1080 oats collection day at Ruffy and Highlands CFA sheds
19th , 20th & 21st.	Strathbogie Shire is offering three free screenings of the film ' An Inconvenient Truth' Euroa Community Cinema 8pm Friday and Saturday, 4PM Sunday
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Strathbogie Summer Festival</u></b> Art Exhibition- Strathbogie Memorial Hall Official opening 7pm Exhibits open Saturday and Sunday 10pm to 4pm, Entry \$5
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>"Twilight in the Ranges"</b> from 6pm. Two course dinner, entertainment & dancing Adults \$25, children (under 12) \$10 Presented by Strathbogie Golf Club. Bookings advised, contact Helen 57905320 or Shirley 57905341
Sat & Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Baarrooka Winery - Cellar door open from 11am to 5pm, Coach Road, Strathbogie, contact 57905288 Pick your own berries - 'Glassonby' Ankers Rd. Ph. 57905303 Open Garden "Sunnyside Lavender Farm" 3070 Bonnie Doon Rd 10am - 4pm
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Open garden "Forest Hills" Tames Rd. 1pm to 4pm
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Strathbogie Historical Society Book launch- update of Strathbogie history, 11am, Strathbogie Memorial Hall Books available for purchase, Contact Helen 57905320
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Festival Market Day 10am - 4pm. Local berries, wineries, gourmet food, plants, pottery, soaps, jewellery, clothing, massage, music etc. Contact Robyn 57953293
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Staff return to school for Term 1 2007 to Highlands Primary School
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Students return to Highlands Primary School
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Exercise classes at the Highlands Hall commence. 6pm \$10 Bring your ball and yoga mat. 1 hour.

### Ruffy v Highlands

Ruffy Cricket Ground 23 /12/06

Highlands and Ruffy cricketers met at the picturesque Ruffy Recreation Reserve. The game was played amid the surrounding oak trees in what one could happily imagine as a village green style. The ground itself was as sunburnt as the rest of this wide brown land, fitting enough since cricket has found its natural home in Australia.

Ruffy won and retained the Granites Trophy, a matter of minor importance as Scott McKay, the man behind the revival of local convivial cricket said quietly. In fairness it seemed that Ruffy drew upon a somewhat less bounded area than Highlands. No one was heard to complain. The game was played in friendly style, with the Australian urge to win kept just below the surface - as part of the game, not its purpose. In similar mode, no appeals were made to the umpire by the crowd regarding what appeared as chucking by a Highlands bowler. The crowd remained enthusiastic, making an

attempt to generate a Mexican wave late in the day. It didn't work; there were plenty of chiefs but an insufficient number of Mexicans.

Highlands won the toss and batted. A promising opening stand by captain Andrew (18) and Dale (29, compulsorily retired) was followed by a big hitting 25 (retired) from Greg. The standard was not maintained. Two run outs displayed good fielding by Ruffy. Ruffy captain Doug was the best of the bowlers taking two wickets. Highlands made 115 in their allotted 30 overs.

Ruffy came in on a wicket which showed no sign of either deterioration or improvement. Their openers were dismissed by the bowlers before reaching compulsory retirement with Andrew capturing the valuable scalp of Jason (19). Doug steadied the side, building a score on ones and twos to reach the retirement score of 25. He was partnered by bigger hitters Terry (14) and Rob (13). Doug's running between wickets was a feature of his game. As he said at the press conference later it was safe to

chance the throwing arm of the Highlands' fielders. Newcomer to the team Fred also reached 25 and a late stand by Sam (no token woman in this team) and Harry, both of whom finished on 14 not out, got Ruffy to a total of 141. Bowlers Ben, Brian, Sharyn and Greg each took a wicket.

The day ended with a barbecue and a continuation of the drinks breaks. David was generous with his home produced beef and everybody else also enjoyed themselves. According to an anecdotal story, many years ago when the Ruffy pub burnt down its cricket team went into recess. This may have been a coincidence, and there is some doubt of the historical truth of the story. Perhaps the teams contending for the Granites Trophy are part of a wine led recovery. I took home a nice bottle of rose (gift of grower Rob Wills) and a Noosa Heads cigarette lighter (donor unknown). It shows that while things have changed in the granite country, the spirit of hospitality and conviviality is continually reborn.

By Doug White

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